

## **Minutes of June 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Allentown EAC**

A meeting of the Allentown EAC was held on June 8, 2015 starting at 5:15 p.m. in City Hall.

EAC members present: Scott Burnet, Randy Fey, Tinku Khanwalkar, Rich Niesenbaum

Non-EAC members present: Lindsay Taylor

The EAC approved the minutes of the May meeting.

### **Reports from EAC Liaisons:**

- Scott Burnet did not have much contact with the Friends of the Allentown Parks in the preceding month.
- Rich Niesenbaum has attended Allentown Planning Commission meetings but there is nothing pending that requires EAC input.
- Randy Fey continues to have difficulty in establishing a relationship with the Allentown Public Works Department. Tinku Khanwalkar said she will bring this up with Mayor Pawlowski.
- Tinku Khanwalkar reported that she attended a City Council meeting at which she requested City Council to fill the vacancy created by Carolyn Albright's resignation. She also reported that she had spoken to Allen Messenger who remains interested in serving on the EAC and that she mentioned this at the City Council meeting.

### **Outreach/Research on Initiatives:**

- Stormwater – The EAC agreed that Randy's paper titled "Water Protection for the Future" should be shared with City Council and the Mayor when it has been finalized. There was also a lengthy discussion of any additional recommendations that can be made regarding stormwater in light of all the new building development. Green roof incentives could be a possible approach to address stormwater.
- Urban Gardening – Rich Niesenbaum reported that the Jordan Heights program is proceeding well.
- Native Plants – Further discussion is needed on whether the City should have an ordinance banning invasive plants. There was discussion of the problem of invasive plants taking over the no-mow zones along the streams in the Allentown Parks. Lindsay explained that the Friends of the Allentown Parks is helping with volunteers to weed the no-mow zones. The City is unwilling to have additional no-mow zones until the needed resources are available to properly maintain them.

- Green Roof Policy – The EAC discussed a potential incentive program under which people could be allowed a 5% or 10% increase in allowable impervious coverage if they agree to implement a green roof. This is the approach taken in Lancaster. Tinku agreed to propose this to the Mayor.
- Plastic Bags and Styrofoam – Scott Burnet reported that Styrofoam is actually recyclable but isn't taken due to food contamination.
- Letter on Stewardship – Tinku suggested a revised letter on environmental stewardship that could be sent to the City Department heads and the Mayor. She said she would review it with the Mayor and report back at the next EAC meeting.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 6:30 p.m.